

North Queensferry Community Council  
Minutes  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Present:

Iain Mitchell	Vice Chairman (In the Chair)
Karen Trotter	Secretary
Christina McKenzie	Treasurer
Catherine Ewen	Councillor
Anne Monteith	Councillor
Jenny Robertson	Councillor
Freda Bastianelli	Councillor
Dave Dempsey	Councillor
David Greig	Councillor (Minutes)

Apologies:

Peter Dean (Chair)  
Cllr Jim Philp

In Attendance – Approx. Twenty Residents

Police Report

PC Davis (Standing in for PC Greig) reported that there were 3 reported crimes in North Queensferry in the previous month. He did not have figures on the number of calls made to the police over this period.

A number of local residents raised the issue of anti-social behaviour in the village. Residents reported serious problems with a number of youths in the village. They reported incidents of nuisance, abusive behaviour, intimidation, vandalism and other problems.

One resident reported that a youth offered drugs to a child in the play park at Pierhead.

Another resident reported that youths congregate in the old cowshed near the Ferry Loch. Drinking takes place there in the evenings. Broken bottles and other litter is left in the community centre play park and does not get cleaned up by the council. Youths then cause noise nuisance and damage when they return down Brock Street.

Residents reported that they had spoken to the parents of the youths involved but that this had not reduced the problem.

The new bench near the community centre has been vandalized.

A resident complained that youths regularly drink carry outs in the School playground. Police are not always confiscating these carry outs.

Residents asked what they should do in order to get action from the police to put a stop to the antisocial behaviour.

PC Davis explained that an incident must be reported and someone prepared to be a witness before a crime could be officially logged. He said it was very important that residents should report incidents, give their names and be prepared to be interviewed regarding incidents. He said it was very rare for there to be a comeback on people who report crimes in this way.

Karen Trotter said that residents of the village felt under siege and that the situation had reached crisis point.

David Greig suggested that NQCC organize a public meeting on antisocial behaviour to be held as soon as possible.

It was agreed that NQCC organize a public meeting and invite the police, Cllr Philp, Fife Council representatives, and other interested parties. Residents would be encouraged to attend and to bring lists of incidents with dates and times where possible so that we could have a concrete sense of the size of the problem. Residents would also be encouraged to bring a list of any missing property which they felt may be linked to these issues.

A public meeting will be arranged for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June depending on Police availability.

PC Davis once again encouraged residents to report every incident to the police.

David Dempsey observed that despite various attempts by NQCC to get the police to address the issue, the special branch car was still regularly parked in a dangerous position on Ferryhills Road.

### **Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**

The minutes were adopted.

### **Matters Arising**

David Dempsey produced a draft questionnaire to go out with The Ferry News. The purpose of the questionnaire is to solicit public opinion on the new Forth Bridge proposals, on the car-parking situation in Brock Street and to gauge the level of public knowledge of CC business. Councilors will email DD with any amendments of further questions they would like to ask.

Positioning of Notice boards: the new notice boards were discussed and it was agreed that they should be positioned outside the Railway Station near Wilma's, on the main street by West Sands, by the bus stop near The Albert, and on Ferry Road opposite Ferry Lane.

The nursery school guidelines are available on the Fife Direct Website. All local parents are ensured places this term because the nursery has begun an afternoon session.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The annual accounts have been signed off.

The Boys Brigade has sent a letter thanking NQCC for their donation and offering their services for local community schemes.

The Gala has no volunteers for the 2007 Gala. JR suggested DD might put a note in Ferry News to this effect. DG suggested adding a question to the questionnaire: would you be willing to help with village events?

### **Secretary's Report**

KT presented a list of the month's correspondence she drew attention to the following letters:

- A letter from a resident complaining about the new 'Keep Clear' markings across the street at Rock House. KT reported that the police had been called to her husband's vehicle, which was parked on these markings. The police had been under the impression that these markings were protecting an emergency lifeboat station. KT asked if this could be confirmed.

IM asked that we send a letter to Fife Council asking them to remain aware that they have agreed to keep NQCC informed of such issues as road markings in the future.

- KT reported that there had been no further response from planners regarding the process by which the new house at Carlingnose Gunsight had been given planning permission despite reservations expressed by NQCC over certain specific issues such as height.

- A letter soliciting lottery bids was presented. DG explained that SOB has applications in preparation for the lottery 'Big Idea' project development fund.

- Fife access seminar on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This meeting is to discuss mapping and signage for core paths and rights of way in Fife. AM said she would attend.

- An invitation to attend a Dunfermline and Coast Association of Community Councils meeting to discuss planning issues. PD and KT to attend.

- KT reported problems with scaffolding being dismantled on the railway bridge at night and causing serious noise issues.

### **Doors Open Day**

IM suggested that North Queensferry Heritage Trust might lead on this issue. This was agreed.

### **Railway Station**

IM reported that The Forth Bridges Visitor Centre is shortly to be evicted from its current premises in the Corus Hotel. He reminded the meeting that finding a suitable use for the Railway Station has been a matter of discussion for some time. A use would need to have a connection with railways to satisfy First Scotrail, the owners of the property. It would need to be appropriate to the size and condition of the property and ideally it would be an idea of benefit to the community. IM suggested that moving The Forth Bridges Visitor Centre into the Railway Station might be ideal.

The exhibit concerns the Railway Bridge and so its location at the station would be ideal. It would fit comfortably within the premises. The Visitor Centre is run by a trust, which is amenable to the idea. If this proposal got off the ground it would open up possibilities that the building could further developed for other community uses as has been discussed before.

IM proposed that, on behalf of NQCC, he write to John Yellowlees of First Scotrail, and to the Managing Director of First Scotrail and recommend that they offer the station to the visitors centre.

This was unanimously agreed.

### **Planning Applications**

- KT reported one application in North Queensferry for a dormer extension to a dwelling house in Mount Hooley Crescent. This was not felt to raise any issues, which required comment from NQCC.

### **AOCB**

- IM to write an article about NQCC for Ferry News.

- Willie Rennie MP is available to attend The NQCC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

- A resident reported problems of overgrown areas and graffiti near the new bench. KT to report the problem to the locality manager and ask that it is dealt with.

- AM reported a sewage leak on the coastal path near Port Laing. She had reported the leak to Scottish Water who said they were 'actively seeking a solution.' A resident commented that there are serious problems of sewage leakage at East Bay and that these have never been dealt with by Scottish Water despite numerous complaints. KT

suggested that SEPA were the relevant authority to contact on this issue as they are supposed to police these matters.

- A resident asked whether mirrors could be put into a strategic location at the top of the brae as this is a problem for drivers.

**Next CC meeting      Thursday 8 June 2006**  
**7.30pm**  
**NQ Community Centre**